EXHIBIT A

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

In re:	
96 Wythe Acquisition, LLC,) Case No. 21-22108-RDD) Chapter 11
Debtor)

DECLARATION OF STEPHEN S. GRAY PURSUANT TO RULE 2014(a) IN SUPPORT OF THE APPOINTMENT AS CHAPTER 11 TRUSTEE

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746, I, Stephen S. Gray, declare under the penalty of perjury: I am the founder and Managing Member of Gray & Company, LLC ("G&CO"), a fiduciary and restructuring services firm. I submit this declaration pursuant to Rule 2014(a) of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure (the "Bankruptcy Rules") in connection with my appointed in the above-captioned case. Unless otherwise stated, I have personal knowledge of the facts hereinafter set forth.

1. For the past 42 years, I have been providing consulting and fiduciary services exclusively in the context of distressed and insolvent businesses. I founded The Recovery Group, Inc. ("TRG") in 1981 and was appointed to my first chapter 11 trusteeship in 1983. In 2007, I merged TRG with Corporate Revitalization Partners, LLC to form CRG Partners, LLC, a firm that became a leading middle market turnaround and restructuring firm in the US. In 2012, CRG was acquired by Deloitte Financial Services LLC. I resigned from Deloitte in 2014 to focus my practice on fiduciary assignments. Since 1983, I have served as chapter 11 and chapter 7 trustee, examiner, future claims representative, post confirmation trustee, State and Federal Court receiver, as well as financial advisor to debtors and creditors in a wide variety of industries, including hospitality businesses. My resume is attached hereto as Exhibit 1.

- 2. I am not related and, to the best of my knowledge, no other person to be utilized by my firm is related to any judge of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York.
- 3. Neither I nor any person to be utilized by my firm in this engagement has, to the best of my knowledge, any current connection with any of the creditors herein or any parties in interest in this case or their respective attorneys and accountants, except as described below.
- 5. My commission as trustee will be subject to Section 326 of the Bankruptcy Code. My fees for services in other bankruptcy matters are at my current hourly billing rate of \$850.00. Any non-working travel time will be charged to the estate at fifty percent (50%) of the hourly rate. All necessary out of pocket expenses will be charged to the estate at actual cost and subject to the Local Rules, orders of this Court and the guidelines of the U.S. Trustee.
- 6. I will maintain detailed records of fees and expenses incurred in connection with the rendering of the services described above, in accordance with applicable rules and guidelines.
- 7. To the best of my knowledge after diligent review, neither I or my firm has any "connection" (as such term is used in Bankruptcy Rule 2014(a)) with the Debtor herein, his creditors, any other party-in-interest herein, their respective attorneys or accountants, the U.S. Trustee, or any person employed in the office of the United States Trustee (collectively, the "Case Parties"). A list of the Case Parties is attached hereto as **Schedule 1**.
- 8. However, I make the following disclosures of relationships I have, or have had with certain Case Parties:
 - Saul Ewing Arnstein & Lehr LLP ("Saul Ewing") represents Mariam Gross, a creditor in this matter. Saul Ewing has represented me in past matters but does not represent me currently and has not represented me for six years.

- Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel LLP ("Kramer Levin") represents the senior secured
 party in this matter, Benefit Street Partners Realty Operating Partnership, L.P. ("Benefit
 Street"). Kramer Levin has represented various parties in matters in which I have been
 involved in the past. Kramer Levin has never represented me.
- Benefit Street, the senior secured party in this matter, has been a participant in lender syndicates in matters in which I have been involved but has never been a client of my firm. Benefit Street is not involved in any active matters of my firm.
- Mark Podgainy ("Podgainy") of Getzler Henrich & Associates LLC ("Getzler Henrich") is a financial advisor to the Debtor. Podgainy was employed by my previous firm, The Recovery Group, Inc. ("TRG"). He resigned from TRG prior to its merger with Corporate Recovery Group and the formation CRG Partners LLC, the firm that acquired by Deloitte Financial Services LLC in 2012. I have not worked with Podgainy since approximately 2006 although I have worked on other matters in which Getzler Henrich was involved. I am not retained in any current matters in which Getzler Henrich is involved.
- Meyer Brown LLP is counsel to the Debtor in this matter. I have been involved in matters in which Meyer Brown was retained but not for a number of years
- Lock Lord LLP is counsel to Eric M. Huebscher, the Examiner in this matter. I serve as an independent director of UBS Holdings LLC, a company in its final stages of a long-term, out of court dissolution process which is represented by Lock Lord.
- 9. To the extent that any information disclosed herein requires amendment or modification upon my completion of further analysis or as additional party-in-interest information becomes available to me, I will submit a supplemental affidavit to this Court9. I believe that I am a disinterested person, and do not hold or represent an interest adverse to the Debtor's estate with respect to the matters for which I am to be employed, as required by Bankruptcy Code Section 328(c)
- 10. I will neither share nor agree to share with any person compensation received or to be received in this case
- 11. I understand that all fees of all professional persons are subject to application or authorization by this Court, upon notice and an opportunity for a hearing, and agree to apply for

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compensation under the terms set by the Bankruptcy Court or any Order that this Court may enter.

11. Based upon the foregoing, I declare under the penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

May 28,2022

Stephen S. Gray

EXHIBIT 1 to Gray Declaration

Gray & Company LLC

Resume Stephen S. Gray

Stephen Gray has more than 40 years of experience developing and implementing restructuring and crisis management plans for public and private companies, creditors and judicial bodies. Mr. Gray was the founder and CEO of The Recovery Group, Inc. (TRG) from 1981-2007. In 2007, TRG merged with Corporate Revitalization Partners (CRP) to form CRG Partners (CRG) where Mr. Gray served as Senior Managing Partner. CRG was acquired by Deloitte in 2012. Mr. Gray was the leader of Deloitte's Fiduciary Services Practice until he resigned in 2014 to form Gray & Company LLC, a practice specializing in providing restructuring and fiduciary services to clients and courts.

Mr. Gray has led the successful operational and financial restructuring of hundreds of companies serving as CEO, CRO, trustee, receiver, restructuring advisor and independent director. Mr. Gray is well known in the financial and legal communities throughout the U.S. for his work as a fiduciary. He has served as chapter 11 trustee in 25 cases, state or federal court receiver in 16 cases, examiner in bankruptcy 8 cases, post-confirmation trustee in 25 cases and as chapter 7 trustee in hundreds of cases. Some of his more significant engagements include:

- Plan administrator of Pier 1 Imports, a \$1.4 billion retailer, responsible for the post confirmation monetization of its assets and corporate wind down
- Chapter 11 trustee of High Voltage Engineering, an international manufacturer of power electronics and industrial control systems
- Chapter 11 trustee of Molten Metals Technology, a high-tech nuclear waste processing company
- Chapter 11 trustee of Inyx USA, a contract manufacturer of pharmaceuticals
- Sole manager of Agera Energy, a large retail energy provider in its chapter 11 proceeding
- Executive chairman and interim CEO for Pivot Health Solutions, a physical therapy and occupational health company in an out of court restructuring

- Chief Restructuring Officer of a resort developer in an out-of-court restructuring of \$1.6 billion of secured debt
- Chief Restructuring Officer of a \$1.2 billion construction and real estate development company in an out-of-court restructuring
- Chief Restructuring Officer of CompUSA, a \$1.8 billion retailer of consumer electronics, in an out-of-court restructuring
- Restructuring advisor for a \$2.0 billion food processing company in an out-of-court restructuring

Prior to forming TRG, Mr. Gray was president of Gray and Company, a turnaround and workout consulting firm. He also served as vice president for Exeter Management Corp., a firm specializing in consulting for distressed businesses, and as a member of the Corporate Development Staff at Arthur D. Little, Inc.

Mr. Gray is a fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy, a member of the International Insolvency Institute, American Bankruptcy Institute and the Turnaround Management Association. He holds a bachelor's degree in engineering science from George Washington University and was a master's level teaching fellow in mechanical engineering at Tufts University.

Mr. Gray serves as a member of the post restructuring boards of directors of Pivot Health Solutions, a physical therapy and occupational health provider; URS Holdings, LLC, a financial services company; Lapmaster Holdings, Inc., a large international machine tool manufacturer; NorthStar Alarm Holdings, LLC, a security alarm company; and Datacon, Inc., a military electronics manufacturer. He also serves as a director of Liberty Power Holdings, LLC, an energy provider in its chapter 11 proceeding. In the last seven years, Mr. Gray has served as independent director for other companies in the diagnostics laboratory services, retail, consumer products, food processing, energy, security, auto rental and automotive supply industries. These matters have concluded.

COURT APPOINTMENTS

Chapter 11 Trustee Appointments <u>Debtor</u>

American Shipyard Corporation Commercial Management Services CRT Food & Beverage, LLC Haskon, Inc. High Voltage Engineering Corporation Inyx USA, Ltd Tedesco Development John Hinckley & Son Co., Inc. Leading Edge Products, Inc.

Industry

Ship Repair
Equipment Leasing
Food Service
Aerospace Products
Industrial Power Systems
Pharmaceutical Manufacturing
Real Estate Development
Retail Lumber
Personal Computers

Locate Plus, Inc.
Lusoair International, Inc.
Edgartown Holding Corp
Molten Metal Technology
New England Physical Therapy
Oilgem, Inc.
Paris Industries Corporation, Inc.
Polar Molecular Corporation
Sammy Eljamal
Swansea Consolidated Resources

TexFi, Inc.
V&M Management, Inc.
WonderWork, Inc.

State and Federal Court Receiverships <u>Debtor</u>

American Baptist Elder Ministries of Massachusetts
Bridgetown Highlands Country Club Business Funding Group, Inc.
Education Collection Services
Fuller Trust, Inc.
Indus Systems
Longfellow Cable
O'Hara Chevrolet
Interstate Credit Corp.
Ottman Customer Processors, Inc.
Plazagal International, Inc.
Rosalco, Inc.
Rose & Crown. Inc.

Post Confirmation Trusteeships

The Windrows at Princeton

Debtor

Arthur D. Little, Inc. BankVest

U.S. Fresh, Inc.

Business Express, Inc.

CABI

CTC Communications

Commercial Management Services, Inc. Encryption Technology Corporation Environmental Compliance Corporation

Interspeed, Inc.

Secure Point Technology, Inc.

Mosler Safe Company

Internet Search
Air Charter
Real Estate
Nuclear Waste Processing
Physical and Sports Therapy Clinics
Oil Distribution
Consumer Products
Fuel Additives Manufacturer
Gas Stations and Real Estate

Golf Textile Manufacturer Low Income Housing Public Charity

Industry

Senior Living

Golf and Real Estate
Financial Services
Financial Services
Senior Living
Software
Cable TV
Auto Dealerships
Subprime Auto
Meat Processing
Fine Art
Furniture
Food Service
Senior Living

Seafood Processor

Industry

Consulting Firm
Commercial Leasing
Commuter Airline
Real Estate
Telecommunications
Equipment Leasing
Software Publisher
Wastewater Treatment
Telecommunications
Explosives Detection Device
Security Equipment

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Parking Corporation America's Airports

Pier 1 Imports, Inc.

Secure Point Technologies, Inc.

Spirit Technologies

Storage Networks, Inc.

Thinking Machines

The Wiz

The Education Resource Institute

Airport Parking

Retail

Explosives Detection

Disc Drive Manufacturer

Software Developer

Supercomputer Technology

Consumer Electronics Retail

Student Loan Guarantor

Examinerships (Chapter 11)

Debtor

Boston Filter Company, Inc.

BV Brooks

Hunter Panels, Inc.

Mason & Hamlin

Q-Scan

Sage Manufacturing, Inc.

Village Food Stores

Weston Senior Care

Industry

Filter Manufacturer

Community Newspapers

Foam Insulation

Piano Manufacturer

Medical Diagnostic Services

Metal Jewelry Stamping

Convenience Store Chain

Senior Living

Other Appointments

Debtor

ACT Manufacturing

Divine, Inc.

Engage, Inc.

Nicholas Earth Printing

ServiSense, Inc.

Scrvisciise, inc

Society of Jesus Milwaukee Archdiocese

GSI Group, Inc.

Confidential

Electronics

Internet Investing

Software Developer Printing

Telecom

Religious Order

Catholic Church

Laser Manufacturer

Telecommunications

Solvency Expert

Forensic and Solvency Expert

Solvency Expert

Expert Witness on value

Solvency Expert

Future Claims Representative

Future Claims Representative

Expert Witness on Feasibility

Solvency Expert for Defense

SCHEDULE 1 to Gray Declaration

Case Parties List

represented

represented

by

by

96 W Development LLC, et al.

c/o Tarter Krinsky & Drogin LLP 1350 Broadway 11th Floor New York, NY 10018 Added: 04/25/2022 (Interested Party)

96 Wythe Acquisition LLC

679 Driggs Ave Brooklyn, NY 11211 Tax ID / EIN: 45-5412160 Added: 02/23/2021 (Debtor)

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Assigned: 02/23/21

Jason A Nagi

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Paul B. O'Neill

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Pearl Shah

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GC Realty Advisors LLC

Added: 01/18/2022 (Unknown)

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Town of Islip

Added: 11/15/2021

(Creditor)

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Grandfield Realty, Corp. Michael P. Berkley, Esq. 100 Garden City Plaza, Suite 518 Garden City, New York 11530-3224

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Hall PR LLC 161 West 23rd Street New York, NY 10011-2422

IEV Trucking Corp. c/o Michael Cassell Hogan & Cassell LLP 500 N Broadway Ste 153 Jericho, NY 11753-2128

COMMTRAK
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